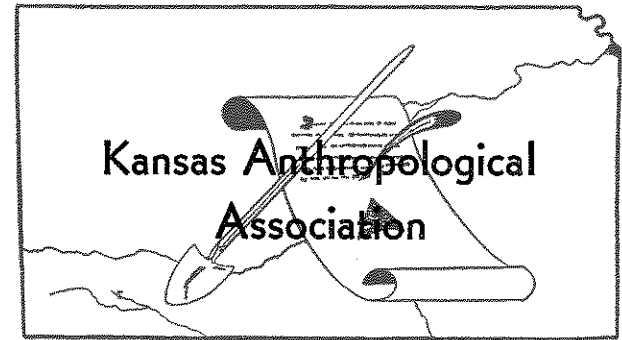


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NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Number 9

May, 1969

THE ALLISON RANCH DIG

by

Thomas A. Witty

The spring 1969 Kansas Anthropological Association dig was held at an historic site just east of Great Bend in May. The site selected was the Allison Ranch, 14BT301. This was located on land owned by Leroy Schartz. Mr. Schartz was kind enough to allow us to do this work and without his cooperation the salvage of this important site would not have been possible. Because the project turned out to be somewhat bigger than first assumed the dig was carried out in two parts. The first four days were May 15 through the 18th and the second period was May 30 and 31. A large number of K.A.A. members turned out for the dig and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The site consisted of the remains of a large building, 80 by 20 feet, having sandstone footings from two to three feet wide and over one foot thick. This building had apparently burned completely furnished. Its location beneath a later corral associated with a more modern farm covered it until recently. The corral had been removed and the area was cleared for cultivation. It was then that the sandstone footings and other debris from the building were turned up. Unfortunately, two collectors began digging random trenches and holes into the area of the structure's remains to see what they could recover. They recovered such artifacts as a Balsam of Wild Cherry bottle, a whiskey bottle, rifle butt plate, powder flask top, ink bottle, many cartridges and ball ammunition.

The site was first brought to the writer's attention with a letter from Scott Midgordon of Great Bend. With the help of Bob Button and later Earl Monger we tested the site and found the evidence that the building's footings were still intact and that there remained a good portion of the burned fill which had not been disturbed. Because of the historic importance of the Allison Ranch complex we decided the site was worthy of complete excavation and that it was the type of site that the K.A.A. could handle during one of their seasonal digs.

Historically the Allison Ranch was a large trading post and ranch complex located on the Santa Fe Trail near the mouth of Walnut Creek and the Arkansas River. The trading post was first established by Allison in the late 1850's and subsequently was owned and operated by Peacock and later Rath. It was probably abandoned in the late 1860's when Rath moved on to establish a store at the new hide hunters' settlement of Buffalo which later became Dodge City. The early Fort Zarah buildings were also located in this immediate vicinity. One of the problems we wish to solve with our excavation was to determine if the structure was truly part of the Allison Ranch or one of the early fort buildings or both. Generally speaking the material which we did recover from the excavations indicate that this was probably one of the ranch buildings. We hope to have a more complete historical outline for the Allison Ranch in a later article of your Newsletter. Mr. Ray Schultz of Great Bend has volunteered to prepare a paper on that subject.

The actual excavation of the remains began with the laying out of grid system of ten foot squares over the intended excavation area. These consisted of basically three north to south rows being given individual excavation unit numbers starting with the south end of the east row being XII and running through to XI9. The middle row was numbered X21 at the south end and it extended to X29. The western line was numbered X31 at the south end and extended to X39 at the north end. We began excavating the units along the extreme south end and the entire eastern line. From there the excavations were extended west across the north end of the site. By the end of the first four days we had excavated all but the central eight ten foot squares. These were removed during the second two-day excavation period at the site.

Most of the recovered artifacts and other features were found at the north end. This was apparently a living area for evidence of furniture, household and kitchen utensils occurred in relatively abundant quantities. The excavations made by the collectors had unearthed the remains of a wood burning stove. The parts of this stove were scattered over their backdirt piles at the north end. Coiled springs such as occur in furniture cushions, scraps of cloth, leather fragments were also found in the northwest corner of that room. The room's earth floor had apparently been covered with a material similar to oilcloth. Heavy metal gromets around the edges of this suggest that it may have been a tarpaulin. In the central and south area of the northern room were two interesting artifact complexes. The first, F10, was made up of broken ironstone dishes and bowls, the handle from a grinder, an oval-shaped military belt buckle, and abundant chunks of burned wood. Just southwest of there was another large complex, F13, which was made up of gun parts, a hoe blade, glass fragments, ironstone fragments, and the large section of a sickle bar from a mowing machine. The gun parts were brass and iron butt plates, ram pipes, patch box covers, barrel pin plates, barrel bands, trigger guards, and one lock plate. The absence of gun barrels and other breech parts suggests to us that the burned building may have been gone through for salvage at the time of its original destruction. Several of the brass butt plates and patch box covers are of the type found on early Sharps rifles. An ornamented trigger guard and an associated brass butt plate suggests a rifle of the Kentucky variety also was included.

The large amount of ironstone and glassware which was recovered indicates that we should get some restorable vessels. Also of interest were numerous small glass seed beads in a variety of colors which occurred in scattered concentrations at the north end of the structure. In two cases these beads were adhered to metal arrow points. These may represent trade items for the local Indian customers.

The dig was quite successful and it appears we recovered some very significant historic material from that site. With the exception of some testing which we did in the fall of 1968 this was the first time that the K.A.A. as a group had worked on an historic site. While the recovered artifacts and features are different the techniques which we used for recovery and recording are much the same as those found in any archeological site.

The recovered material will be preserved in the collections at the State Historical Society. When suitable space is available at the new Barton County Historical Society's museum suitable pieces will be returned for display.

Kansas State Historical Society
Topeka, Kansas.

Members of the K.A.A.:

Six days of toil and a little fun completed successfully the 1969 Spring Dig. Again I am surprised and proud of the quality and quantity of the work accomplished at this dig. A special thanks must be given to Tom Witty, State Archaeologist; and Tom Barr, his Assistant, for their supervision, and to the members who served on the respective committees. The recorded features and datable artifacts taken from this site will help interpret the Pioneer period in the Barton County Area, even though the site will be completely destroyed. To the members who attended and participated, not only goes the thanks of those responsible for arranging the "dig", but also the pride of belonging to an organization which not only works as a team but learns and teaches while doing so.

Thanks to all of you,

Carl W. Monger, President

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Reed,

May 28, 1969

Thank you for asking if we could come to that place. Before we went on our field trip we made some little booklets to write down important things we saw. Thanks you for telling them to bring enough soda pop for us. We ate lunch about one block away from the site. My mother was one of the drivers. She drove me, Melissa, Susi, Sharonlee, Rhonda, Sheryl and Rosalind. We saw old coffee beans, glass, broken dishes, bullet shells and lots of other things. Well I have to do the rest of my work, so I have to close.

Your friend,

Anne Herb
136 Phoenix
Salina, Kan.

Visitors and Members Present Thursday May 15, 1969

MEMBERS

Tom Witty
 Georgia Rhoads
 Chester Rhoads
 Dick Sangster
 Ruth Currie
 Richard Carmichael
 Joan Carmichael
 Lora Casey
 Bob Button
 Earl Monger
 Iris Monger
 Virginia Walters
 Tom Barr
 Lloyd Rusco
 Parker Parish

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. Herman, Great Bend

FRIDAY May 16, 1969

Parker Parish
 Tom Witty
 Earl Monger
 Iris Monger
 Joan Carmichael
 Richard Carmichael
 Chester Rhoads
 Georgia Rhoads
 Marie Horn
 Ruth Currie
 Edith Dobbs
 Scott Midgorden
 Tom Barr
 Lora Casey
 Robert Button

Arlin P. Schartz, Great Bend
 Mrs. Donald Schloemer G. B.
 Mrs. Henry Kattwitz, G. B.
 Robyn Dandel, Jetmore, Kansas
 Linda Major, Beloit, Kansas
 Chris Fahrenholtz, Hays
 Cynthia Mead, Hays
 Naomi Carter, Jennings
 Bertie Daley, Hays
 Barbara Schreiner, Wakeeney
 Karen Ayres, Smith Center
 Ann Hoss, Ness City
 Judy Black, Dodge City
 Betty Jo Toms, Hays
 Allene Miller, Haleiwa, Hawaii
 Gary Taylor, Longmont, Colorado
 Roberta Lane, Hays
 Brenda Blackburn, Ellis
 Virginia Supernow, Ellsworth
 Dorothy Carlson, Jamestown
 Nancy Koch, Great Bend
 Pauline Meador, Salina (3rd grade teacher
 Schilling AFB)

Third Grade:

Joan Maxey
 Susan Miller
 Terri Stark
 Estelle Resa
 Donna Levan
 Steve Shafer
 Craig Halsey
 Kerwin Bartley
 David Johnson

(continued on next page)

Friday May 16, continued

MEMBERS

VISITORS

James West
 Jesse Cabrera
 Deanna Hinds
 Patrick Spencer
 Mike Wojngrownks ***
 Wanda Jackson
 Rhonda Ledbetter
 Sharonlee Mosigel
 Mark Merkel
 Johanna Lewis
 Sheryl Jackson
 Rolf Warren
 Frederick Rouse
 John Shanahan
 Eugene Mayor
 Donna Marie O'Shea
 Dorinda Schwan
 Milissa Gabriel
 Lesa Ann Seibert
 Susan Marie Seibert
 Mrs. Richard W. Stark
 Margaret E. Miller
 Mrs. Marilee Bachmann
 Ann Herb
 Harold Schmidt, Principal SAFB (others)
 O. T. Meador, McPherson
 Wendelin Herrman, Great Bend
 George G. Herrman, Great Bend
 Kenneth Akers, Hays
 Also third grade SAFB
 Susan Shutler
 Tommy McAllaster
 Shiela Mullin
 Dana Engleman
 Kirk Auston
 Tom Stephenson
 Lori Baxter
 Karla Marietta
 Debbie Werner
 Laura Lee Laughlin
 Karole Erdson
 Jeff Johnson
 Larry Bohall
 Randy Schmidt
 Edward Maresch
 Tom Stevenson
 Mrs. Franklin Reinhardt

SATURDAY May 17, 1969

Mary Ann Witty, Topeka
 Linda and David

(continued)

Dr. Halsey Miller
 Parker Parish

Saturday May 17, 1969 continued

MEMBERS

Estelle Parish
 R. D. Brent
 Jim Brent
 Tom Barr
 Orrie Graves
 Georgia Rhoads
 Iris Monger
 Earl Monger
 Fern Kusy
 Duane Kusy
 Harold Reed
 Margie Reed and family
 Ruth Currie
 Lora Casey
 Richard Carmichael
 Joan Carmichael
 John Rhine
 Dale Morrisse
 Judy Morrisse
 George Valyer
 Scott Midgorden
 Robert Button
 Tom Witty

VISITORS

Billy Graves
 Mrs. Don Schloemer
 Denton Schloemer
 Mrs. Halsey Miller
 Lee Valyer

SUNDAY May 18, 1969

Harold Reed
 Margie Reed and family
 Earl Monger
 Iris Monger
 Parker Parish
 Tom Barr
 John Rhine
 Chester Rhoads
 Georgia Rhoads
 Joan Carmichael
 Richard Carmichael
 Tom Witty
 Ruth Currie
 Robert Button
 Millard Schloemer
 Lora Casey
 Gerald Hammeke
 Virginia Walters
 Orrie Graves
 Lois Graves
 Don Schloemer
 Duane Kusy
 Fern Kusy

Mary Ann Witty and children, Topeka
 Bernita Schloemer, Bison
 Mary and Billy Graves, Pratt
 Mrs. Gene Koenig, Great Bend
 Donita Harbough "
 Tammy Baker "
 Dorothy Ann Terry "
 Sherl McDorman "
 Mrs. L. C. McDorman "
 Rhonda Appel "
 Rhonda Rusco "
 Marcia Kite "
 Larry Moffat "
 Kent Blythe "
 Eldred Maresch "
 Jeffrey Rathbun "
 Thaine Moore "
 Harry Rathbun "
 Phyllis Blythe "
 Irene Ellis "
 Connie Hartwig & boys, Wichita
 Nadine Schloemer, Great Bend
 Denton and Darren, Great Bend
 Marietta Phillips, Hoisington
 Ann Evenson, Claflin
 Mr. & Mrs. Glen Morrisn, G. B.

(continued)

(continued May 18, 1969)

MEMBERS

VISITORS

Evelyn Appel "
 Bradley Appel "
 Roxie Bernhardt, Great Bend
 Mary Sholant, Great Bend
 Brent Reinhardt, Great Bend
 F. D. Reinhardt, Great Bend
 Wm. C. Wells, Great Bend
 Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Rhoads, G. B.
 Elmer H. Geil
 Mr. Cleat Walters, Great Bend
 Daniel Moore, Bison
 Darrel Moore, Great Bend
 Dorothy Moore, Great Bend
 Alex Moore, Great Bend
 Rachel Moore, Great Bend
 Neil Legleiter, LaCrosse
 Leo Legleiter, LaCrosse
 Susan Moore, Great Bend
 Le Roy Scharitz, Great Bend
 Mrs. Le Roy Scharitz, Great Bend

CONTINUATION OF THE DIG TO MEMORIAL DAY WEEK END.

Friday May 30, 1969

Estelle Parish
 Parker Parish
 Harold Reed
 Margie Reed and family
 Earl Monger
 Iris Monger
 Robert Button
 Tom Witty
 Ruth Currie
 Marie Horn
 Norman Horn
 Scott Midgorden
 Georgia Rhoads
 Chester Rhoads

Michael Johnson, Great Bend
 John Boyd, Great Bend
 Mr. and Mrs. Roland Wells
 Wm. C. Wells, Great Bend
 Robbie Button

Saturday May 31, 1969

Harold Reed
 Margie Reed and family
 Earl Monger
 Iris Monger
 Ruth Currie
 Tom Witty
 John Rhine
 Orrie Graves
 Dale Morisse
 Judy Morisse
 Parker Parish
 Lora Casey
 Joe Hada
 Scott Midgorden

Mrs. Roy Evenson, Claflin
 M. E. Rinker, Great Bend
 Nadine Schloemer, Great Bend
 Mary Ann Rhine and family, Hays
 Billy Graves

KANSAS ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 19, 1969

The 14th annual meeting of the Kansas Anthropological Association was held in the Black Room of Memorial Union at Fort Hays Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas April 19, 1969. Sixty-two members and guests were present.

Registration was from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Earl Monger, President of the Kansas Anthropological Association. Mr. Monger welcomed the group and introduced the guests, officers, charter members, and past officers of the Association.

Minutes of the 1968 annual Spring meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

KANSAS ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
1969 Treasurer's Report

OLD BUSINESS: A committee had been appointed to determine the need for higher dues. Mrs. Monger presented a man and wife dues, to be \$5.00 for the man and \$3.00 for the woman, she also made a motion to adopt the new dues rate.

Irene Holland opposed single membership dues being higher than for a family plan.

Norman Horn stated if each club member brought in two new members it would pay in reduced dues.

Orrie Graves suggested a family plan should include the children.

Tom Witty suggested the \$5.00 membership and receive the newsletter and \$3.00 without newsletter.

R. D. Brent seconded Mrs. Monger's motion.

Motion was defeated.

Robert Button made a motion for a family membership with dues at \$8.00, one newsletter to the family. Members 16 and over pay student dues. Norman Horn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Irene Holland told of the need to write to our senators and congressmen to save an early man site. The site is in a cave in Washington. Irene also made a motion for the officers to investigate and to inset results in Newsletter. Motion seconded by Mrs. Monger. Motion carried.

Norman Horn asked for a review on newsletter publication by Tom Witty.

Tom Witty asked for more Chapter reports and news from each chapter.

Mr. Monger presented our guest speaker, Dr. William Bass, Physical Anthropologist, from the University of Kansas.

Dr. Bass presented a very interesting talk and slides on work done on a site in South Dakota where there was a probable smallpox epidemic in 1871. The site is being destroyed by the largest earth fill dam in the world. Dr. Bass stated the reason for believing this was a smallpox epidemic was because of the age group of the skeletons found in the village. In the village were found teenagers and young adults, while in the burial grounds were very young and old adults.

Meeting adjourned for lunch.

Mr. Monger called the afternoon meeting to order and asked for Chapter Reports.

Apache Chapter - By Mrs. Earl Monger, showed slides of Chapter activities. She also presented Tom Witty with a K.A.A. patch. The patches are for sale by the apache chapter at \$1.25 each. Harold Reed presented a flag to be used at the K.A.A. digs.

Ninnescah Chapter: By Mr. George Valyer. The Chapter has been going through a re-forming stage. One dig S. E. of Pratt. They have display cases different places in Pratt. Some meetings are held in Pratt, some in Greensburg.

The spring dig will be held in Barton County, May 15, 16, 17, 18, 1969. The dig will be on an historic site. The Apache Chapter will host the dig with food being sold at the site by the Apache Chapter.

The spring meeting will be April 18, 1970. Mr. Brent reported on the Vohrs site. Mryl Walker talked about the first meeting of the Kansas Museum Association. This association is in turn affiliated with the Rocky Mountain Museum Association. Membership dues are \$1.00 per year. Associate dues are .50¢ per year.

Mr. Monger thanked the Alton Chapter for hosting the 1968 fall dig. The meeting was adjourned for workshops conducted by Mr. Tom Witty on pottery, Mr. Jim Marshall on worked stone, Mr. Tom Barr on historical archeology with emphasis on bottles and jars. This workshop session was very well received by the members and it is hoped we will be honored by this type of program again by members of the Kansas State Historical Society.

John E. Rhine
Secretary - Treasurer

April 18, 1970

	Receipts	Expenses
Balance on hand April 20, 1968	\$ 21.40	
Membership Dues, Newsletter Sales, Bulletin Sale	814.00	
Book sales = 25 @ \$7.95	198.75	
1968 Spring Meeting Registration fees	40.00	
Closing of Kansa Chapter	27.27	
Donation - Mr. & Mrs. Monger	10.00	
	<u>\$1,111.42</u>	
Annual Mailing Fee		\$ 30.00
Advance Mailing Deposits		105.27 (12.30 left)
Dr. Halsey Miller - Speaker fee \$20.00 plus gift membership		20.00 Total Value
Postage for Newsletter to Canada & others		8.69 \$25.00
Postage for books, letters, other material		11.68
Money order - Mrs. Roy Bessire - Refund on N.L. order		2.80
Check for 34 books @ \$6.36 each		216.24
Payment for postage due material Northwestern Typewriter Co.		2.00
stencils, paper, printing, \$30.00, \$11.12, \$2.00		43.12
N.L. \$50.57 - Typing \$2.44, \$1.86		54.87
Room rental - Coffee & Donuts		24.79
N.L. \$62.86 - Stencil re-run \$1.37		64.23
Mailroom F.H.K.S.C. - Mailing - 310 envelopes @ .06¢ each		19.04
N.L. \$49.71 - 500, 7 X 10 envelopes - \$17.35		67.06
News Publishing Co. - 4,000 letterheads		45.53
N.L. \$32.28 - bulk envelopes \$60.70, postcards \$5.35		98.33
N.L. \$94.44 - N.L. & Index \$107.88 - N.L. \$33.12		<u>236.44</u>
		<u>\$1,050.09</u>
	Receipts	\$1,111.42
	Expenses	<u>-1,050.09</u>
Balance on hand 4-19-69	\$	61.33

All Cash

INFORMATION FOR K.A.A. MEMBERSHIP

The objects and purposes of this association are: to unite individuals who are interested in the Indian history and prehistory of the State of Kansas; preservation and display of Indian remains within the State; the scientific study, investigation and interpretation of archeological remains and ethnological materials; the publication and distribution of information concerning Kansas archaeology and ethnology; the development and promotion of greater public interest and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the State.

Types of memberships and dues:

Active	\$5.00	Contributing	\$10.00
Student	\$3.00	Life	\$100.00
Institutional	\$7.00		

Application for membership and dues should be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Kansas Anthropological Association as the address appears on the title page of the Newsletter. A membership year begins on September 1st and annual dues are payable at that time.

PUBLICATIONS

Members will receive the Newsletter nine times a year. Printed from September to May the Newsletter contains reports of archaeological and ethnological work in the state as well as activities of the K.A.A. members. All members and interested individuals, professional or amateur, are invited to submit material to the K.A.A. editor for use in the Newsletter. Five reprints will be provided free to the author for each article accepted. Additional reprints or reprints of back numbers, if available, may be ordered from the Secretary-Treasurer.

Prices are 35 cents each for issues from Volume 1 - 12. Fifty cents each for issues from Volume 13 on.

The Association also publishes bulletins on specific subjects as the material becomes available. Currently in print is Bulletin No. 1, Coal Oil-Canyon, by Peter W. Bowman, \$2.25. Bulletins may be ordered from the editor.

MEETINGS

Association meetings are held one or two times a year. The 1969 Spring meeting will be held in Hays, April 19, 1969 at the Memorial Union, Fort Hays College campus.